

PROJECT-BASED LESSON

WHAT'S WORKING: THE IMPACT OF NGOS

Summary

Students will explore some of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that are working to help girls in developing countries. Students will work in groups to learn about the organizations and the effective programs that they have implemented. Using the research, students will create an informational brochure explaining how the programs effects girls' education. A second option is for students to create a hypothetical NGO, and then write a brochure.

Objective

Students will become familiar with how NGOs work to bring about sustainable change in developing countries.

Subjects

Language Arts, Reading and Writing, Social Studies (Civics)

Common Core State Standards

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.2/8.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.8/8.8: Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.7: Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.

Time Needed

Four to five class periods; 50 minutes each

Skill Building

- Researching and analyzing information
- Working in a team environment
- Writing for a specific purpose

Resources and Materials

- Teacher-selected film chapters from Girl Rising
- Teacher Guides for selected chapters, which include a list of Resources, a mini-lesson for introducing the film chapters, and a Film Viewing Guide
- Girl Rising partner organization websites:
 - A New Day Cambodia at www.anewdaycambodia.org
 - CARE at www.care.org
 - Partners In Health at www.pih.org
 - Room to Read at www.roomtoread.org
 - Girl Up at www.girlup.org
 - Plan at www.planusa.org or www.plan-international.org
 - World Vision at www.worldvision.org
- See Additional Resources Guide (found in the Resources section) for additional resources, including relevant videos.
- Books that examine the impact of development programs
 - *Beatrice's Goat*, by Page McBrier and Lori Lohstoeter
 - *One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference* by Katie Smith Milway and Eugenie Fernandes
 - *The Good Garden: How One Family Went from Hunger to Having Enough* by Katie Smith Milway and Sylvie Daigneault
 - *The Mangrove Tree: Planting Trees to Feed Families* by Susan L. Roth and Cindy Trumbore
 - *Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa* by Jeanette Winter

Essential Questions

1. What role do NGOs play in developing countries?
2. How do NGOs impact the lives of girls in the developing world?
3. How can individuals support the efforts of NGOs?

Content Question Ideas

1. What characteristics define an NGO?
2. In which countries are NGOs working?

Building a Foundation and Making Connections

View the selected film chapter(s) from Girl Rising so students begin to gain an understanding of the numerous issues that influence a girl's ability to access an education. Use the Introductory Lessons and Film Viewing Guides, relevant Country and Issue Fact Sheets, and Resources to encourage students to make connections between a girl's specific situation and the types of aid she may need to stay in school.

To help build an understanding of what an NGO is, hang two large pieces of paper in the room: one for the class to create a description of an NGO, and one to create a list of NGOs they are familiar with. Ask students to list the characteristics of an NGO. Use these to help build the description of an NGO. Ask students if they are familiar with any organizations (not related to a government) that fit that description.

Leave both lists up during the assignment. As students begin their research and discover new information, encourage them to build the class lists and/or correct information.

Note: Even if students are unfamiliar with the term non-governmental organization, or NGO, it is likely they are familiar with at least one of the large international aid agencies such as Red Cross, the Salvation Army, or Heifer International and have a general understanding of the work they do. Students may need guidance connecting these agencies with the term NGO.

Student Work

Break students into groups. Each group will research an NGO and create an informational brochure to share with others. Students should be very aware of the purpose of their writing. The goal of the brochure is to inform others about the work of a specific NGO in a developing country, and how that NGO's work directly, or indirectly, impacts the education of girls.

As an alternative, students might choose to create a hypothetical NGO and write a brochure explaining how the work of their NGO could effect girls' education in the developing world. Encourage students to use their research, and to be creative!

Ideas for Encouraging All Learners

English Language Learners

- Encourage students to research an NGO based in, or working in, their native country.

Support Services

- Help students set up their brochure in a more concrete “Q and A” format so that they can focus on researching answers to specific questions.

Gifted and Talented Students

- Encourage students to learn about the United Nations Millennium Goals for 2015. How are they impacting the work that is going on today? Some countries are on target to meet their goals, and others are not. What is working for the countries that are projected to meet their goals? What consequences are there for the countries that do not meet their goals and/or do not even attempt to meet them?